

REMARKS

At the time of the Office Action, Claims 26-33, 35-41, 43-46 and 48-58 were pending in this Application. Claims 26-29, 31-33, 35-41, 43, 45 and 48-58 were allowed. Claims 30, 44, and 46 have been amended to further define various features of Applicants' invention. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 30, 44 and 46 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants have amended these Claims to overcome these rejections and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 26-29, 31-33, 35-41, 43, 45, and 48-58 are allowed. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that Claims 30, 44 and 46 would be allowable if written to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as set forth in the Office Action.

Specification

Applicant has amended the first paragraph of the specification to reference the priority claim applications.

Applicant has also amended the specification to add references to the side wall and end wall of the bore hole as supported by the drawings and as requested by the Examiner. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added.

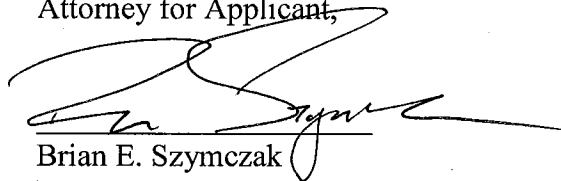
CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims.

Applicants believe there are no fees due at this time other than the extension fees discussed above, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0359 of ArthroCare Corporation in order to effectuate this filing.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicant's attorney at 512.391.3961.

Respectfully submitted
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